

**641—82.3 (135) Responsibilities of the office of minority and multicultural health.** The purpose of the office is to improve the health of racial and ethnic minorities by bridging communication, delivery and service requirements and by providing customized services and practical approaches to problems and issues encountered by organizations and communities working to address the needs of these populations. The office of minority and multicultural health shall provide public health leadership regarding existing or potential issues or practices that can or could affect the health status of racial, ethnic, and linguistic multicultural individuals and families, immigrants and refugees. The office shall provide this leadership through the core functions of (1) education; (2) advocacy; (3) data management; (4) technical assistance and consultation; and (5) training and development. The office is responsible for the following:

**82.3(1)** Promoting continuous cultural competency in health care practice and education throughout Iowa's public health care sector;

**82.3(2)** Collecting and providing valid empirical information on the health status of multicultural groups in Iowa;

**82.3(3)** Advocating for the development of policies and programs that improve the health of Iowa's racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse populations and addressing health disparities that exist within these populations;

**82.3(4)** Providing technical planning assistance to communities and counties throughout the state and promoting community strategic planning;

**82.3(5)** Serving as the liaison and advocate for the department on minority and multicultural health matters and advocating for Iowa's racial, ethnic, and linguistic multicultural communities;

**82.3(6)** Creating and promoting a climate of inclusiveness in the public health sector on state, regional and local levels by partnering with the office's racial, ethnic, and linguistic multicultural constituents in Iowa to help them improve their collective health status;

**82.3(7)** Promoting the Iowa public health standards and providing technical assistance and consultation regarding state and local criteria relating to disparate populations and delivery of culturally appropriate services; and

**82.3(8)** Reviewing the impact of programs, regulations and health care resource policies on the delivery of and access to minority and multicultural health services.